

*R. England & Ireland*  
REFLEXIONS  
<sup>3307</sup>  
UPON THE  
MORAL STATE  
OF THE  
NATION.

WITH

An Offer at some Amendments therein.

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*To a Member of Parliament.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed for *Matt. Wotton*, at the *Three Daggers*  
near the *Inner-Temple-Gate* in *Fleet-street*,  
1701.

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# REFLEXIONS

UPON THE

## MORAL STATE

OF THE

# NATION.

**T**HE prosperous condition of any Government consists in this, that in the whole subordination from head to foot, that is, from the *Sovereign* down to the meanest *Servant*, every single Person in each Order of Men be duely *qualified* for, and diligently *exercised* in that business, which belongs to his *rank* and *station*.

2. WHEN therefore any *notorious disability* or *neglect* weakens any branch of the Subordination, the Public must in proportion suffer thereby; but if the defects shall become so general, as to affect all degrees, and the greater part of Men also in each degree; it must of necessity put the whole frame of the Government into *disorder*, and by hasty decays draw on its *dissolution*.

3. **FOR** such an *ill complexion of affairs* in a State, resembles that **Dyscracy**, or universal distemper of humours in a natural body; whereof every one is Physician enough to foresee the event: And the abounding of Vice in any Nation, doth not only as a **meritorious cause** sooner or later pull down the *divine vengeance* upon it; but in its **natural course** directly tends to make People as *wretched and miserable*, as they have been *base and vile*, in all the instances of Wickedness and Folly.

4. **THAT** there are many such defects and disorders grown up among us, hath been long a *just*; and of late a very *lowd* complaint: And to a diligent Observer, that shall survey them not only as to their *extent*, but search them to the *bottom* too; they will be found so deeply *rooted*, as well as widely *spread*, as to threaten mischiefs hereafter, which are even now *too direful* to be nam'd.

5. **SUCH** as would indulge their lusts with a more *licentious security* are wont to delude themselves and others by that common topic; **That the world has been always wicked, and that every age hath rung with the solemn out-cries of melancholic Men, who being not able to reach, or at least having no fancy to relish the pleasures of life; have entertain'd their own spleen by endeavouring with frightful prognosticks, to disturb others in the quiet possession of their enjoyments.** But no dangers are so fatal, as when least apprehended; and it is always incident to a *corrupt age*, as to a Person sinking into a *Lethargy*, to be still the more insensible of its own evils and the consequences thereof, as *Vice and Irreligion* more generally prevail upon it.

6. **IT** is therefore left to all *considering Persons* to make their



their own particular observations according to their several prospects of Men and Business, and thereupon to form their reflections in secret, as they shall see cause: rather then here to expose the shame of a Nation, by entering into a detail of all *abuses* and *miscariages*; which are every where both numerous and visible enough to discover themselves to any, but such *as will not see, or hate to think.*

7. THIS discovery of the present state of the Nation in respect to the general Corruption of Manners, which is intermix'd with all business and employments; as it cannot but awaken all Men, who have an awful sense of Divine Providence, to a deep and serious lamentation: So must the just apprehension of the general danger thence impending over our secular, as well eternal interests, excite them and all others also, who have any regard to the mere temporal prosperity of themselves or descendants; to make a diligent enquiry into the most effectual remedies for removing the one, and preventing the other.

8. THE cure of any Evil is never more successfully prosecuted, than by tracing it up to its Original; and altho' such an *inundation of immorality and irreligion* may be ascribed to the concurrence of several *intermediate causes*; many whereof are so obvious, as to need no particular remark in this Paper, the only charitable aim whereof is not to offend any, but to amend all: Yet upon the most deliberate consideration it will appear, that the *root of all this misery* is some great failure in the *methods of Education.* 'Tis well said by the Authour of OCEANA p. 216. Ed. 1656. *The vices of the People are from their Governours, those of the Governours from their Laws and Orders, and those of their Laws and Orders from their Legislators.* Ut malè posuimus initia, sic cetera sequuntur  
Cic.

Cic. Whatever was in the womb imperfect, as to its proper work, comes very rarely or not at all to perfection; and the formation of a Citizen in the womb of the Commonwealth is his education. Accordingly it hath been observ'd, that this taint hath not infected those alone, that are advanc'd in Years, and have been long immers'd in the *lewd conversation* of the World: but even in Youth it self, beyond the examples of former times, there is every where discernable a more early and vehement propension to wickedness.

9. IT must indeed be granted, that the *base-born*, because *ill-begotten* progeny of *wicked parents*, may from the infelicity of their birth derive stronger dispositions to vice; and so consequently, by a complexion naturally more deprav'd, be more impressiv'e to the contagion of ill examples, which like a pestilential air by imperceptible insinuations seizes upon all within it's reach: but were the methods of Discipline for the institution of Youth wisely proportion'd to the *exigences of the present times*, as well as the security of the future, which is the intendment of the Proposal hereafter made; a stop might soon be put to the spreading infection; and while the Grave by swift executions shall be swallowing up the *incurable ulcers of the Age*, a provision in the mean time may be made for raising a more hopeful generation in time to come. Otherwise, if Vice *diffusing the poison of Atheism*, where ever it goes; shall still be suffer'd to advance according to the steps of its *former progression*: it may justly be fear'd, *that those, who shall be so unhappy, as to be born in the next Age; will have more than one reason to wish, that this had been the last.*

10. THE methods lately propos'd for Reformation of Manners, and reviving some sense of Religion in the World, tho'

tho' piously intended and deserving to be pursu'd ; will, without other *collateral aids*, be found in the issue no more then *palliations* and no perfect cures. Piety may indeed seem to have recover'd some little credit among Men, when Vice shall be so far put out of countenance, as to fly to the shelter of a mask ; and by sneaking into secret corners be forc'd to confess it self *a work of darkness* : but yet this seeming flight is but a sly retreat into some *insidious ambuscade*, and until the abdicated Conscience shall be restor'd to its rightful Throne ; which is a work not likely to be wrought in habitual and harden'd miscreants by *fines, stocks or whipping-posts*, the mischief will still be where it was. Besides, the most *illustrious* and therefore the most *scandalous* perpetrations of wickedness, being by long prescription privileg'd even against the laws of heaven it self, and entitl'd to an exemption from such *mechanic inflictions* : 'Tis not to be hop'd, that while the *greatest examples* of Vice are the most *notorious instances* of its impunity too ; this procedure under our present circumstances will attain any considerable effect. For what will it avail towards the ridding of a Country from pernicious Vermine, if after the destruction of *Rats, Moles and Pole-cats* ; the *Foxes, Wolves and Bears* with all the fiercest beasts of prey, be still suffer'd in broad day to range the open fields, because there are no traps *so strong*, or gins *big enough* to take 'em. But after all, when the zeal of some *few Men*, and but in *few places* too, shall have spent it self, or at least begin to flag under the discouragement of a difficult and seemingly endless undertaking : then will wickedness, like a torrent, swoln the higher for having been some time checked in its course ; break over the dam more impetuously then ever, and with unbounded outrage defy all restraints, that were too weak to control it.



II. SINCE therefore, the perverseness of Mens natural inclinations, strengthen'd by the accession of worse habits, is by common experience found so insuperable, that not one perhaps in a hundred is ever entirely reclaim'd; *reformation must begin, where the corruption did*, and the impression of virtuous principles, as well as instilling the first notions of all ingenious Arts and Sciences, must be radicated in the *earliest prepossessions of the mind*, and cherish'd there too by such *constant exercises and continual applications*, as may grow up into a settled habit of *thinking wisely*, and *acting virtuously*. And were all sorts of Youth, suitable to their birth, fortune and capacity, prudently ordered from their childhood; we might hope to hear no more, or very rarely of such *monstrous outrages and deplorable miscarriages*: whereby so many to the great dishonour, if not utter ruine of their Families; to the reproach of Christianity, as well as to the mischief of their Countrey; have been most miserably hurried to destruction.

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FOR A  
HAPPY REMEDY  
OF THESE

EVILS,

*It is tendred to Consideration, as follows.*

**W**Hereas the Cathedral Churches in this Kingdom have by their original institution Schools annex'd to their Foundations, which in every **Diocese** were at first design'd to be the *principal Seminaries* for pious and ingenuous education; and without any *new expence* to the public, are at this day most easily capable of all the improvements here intended, both by the accession of greater assistance, the exercise of the most prudent conduct, and the maintenance of a more manly, and yet at the same time a more awful sort of discipline, besides many other great advantages, which have hitherto been generally wanting in the methods of *English* education: therefore it is with all Submission offered, that to the **Master and Wither** in those

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Schools,

Schools already settled, there be upon the next avoidance for ever adjoin'd two at least of the Canons or Prebendaries; who together with the Master and Usher shall have the constant and immediate care of all the Youth there to be educated; and that of the Prebendal houses or lodgings, such as are for this purpose most convenient; shall, as soon as they become void, be assign'd for the perpetual residence of such Canons or Prebendaries; who, beside their being always ready to superintend the Affairs of the Church, as occasion may require, shall be appointed to perform their share in the education of youth.

2. BECAUSE it is indispensably requisite, that such as are intrusted with the education of Youth, especially those of the better Quality too, be Men every way for their *piety, useful and solid learning, prudent behaviour, and decent deportment*, of all others the most accomplish'd, that can any where be found or perswaded to undertake this important charge; forasmuch as they are to be, as it were, the **Copies and Models of Humanity** to all such Youth, whose tender minds are to be *form'd upon their notions*, and their life and manners *shap'd by their example*: therefore to prevent the partial recommendations and sordid importunities of friends, kinsmen or dependants, 'tis propos'd farther; that in all Churches, the dignities whereof are in the disposal of the Crown or the Seal, permission be obtain'd, and by Act of Parliament confirm'd, for the Bishop, Dean and Chapter to present to the **K J R** or Lord Chancellor three such persons, as they by joint consent shall esteem the best qualified; out of which one upon every vacancy to be chosen for this weighty charge, into which the admission of the person so appointed should be with all the ease imaginable; because

because no encouragement can be too great for inviting persons of the best merit, to undertake this employment, so difficult above all others to be discharged well, and of such inestimable benefit to the public, when it is so.

3. **AND** because *Deans, Canons or Prebendaries* how wisely soever in their first institution design'd to be of excellent use, *as they still may be*, even beyond what they ever were; yet thro' the *vicissitudes of time and alteration of circumstances*, they long have been, and *under those denominations* still are look'd upon, by the generality not only of enemies, but friends, perhaps even by themselves too, as *insignificant Societies of Men*; that is, as so many *Titular shadows* possess'd of Dignities with *little or no honour to themselves*, and of large Revenues without any *benefit to the Public*: Therefore, that Persons otherwise deserving well, may in that station also be hereafter of better esteem; 'tis farther advis'd, **That every Canon or Prebendary during his residence be oblig'd every day to spend some remarkable portion of time in the said School, to assist his Brethren and facilitate their labours.** For whatever the number be of those that are to be instructed, there cannot easily be too much help; the conduct of this Affair being like the management of a Farm, which altho' not of the largest extent, yet by a diligent hand there will be always *something to be done*; and the *more exactly skillful* the Instructors are in their business, *the more work they will find to do*; nor, if they are honest Men, will they suffer it to be neglected. Of which that there may be the less danger, since there cannot be a more *valuable pledge* deposited in any Man's hand, then *the Souls of Youth*; there ought to be **A diligent inspection made by the Dean once a week during his residence, both for advising with the Masters, encouraging the Scholars, and preserving good**



**discipline in all things.** Farthermore, it will in several respects, and for reasons very obvious, be of very great consequence; That the Bishop be pleas'd frequently to visit the School in person, and to observe the conduct of all things therein, and together with the Dean and Chapter to consider from time to time about whatever shall be capable of emendation or improvment, either in the methods of institution, exercise of Discipline, or any matter or circumstance whatever thereunto relating.

4. THE effect of which disquisition may probably be this; that in the commonly receiv'd methods of education many things may be observ'd; which, after all the Parents have expended, or the Children suffer'd: do tend more to *pervert the minds*, and *corrupt the manners* of Youth; then contribute to making them wiser, or better. It is a double loss, and hardly, if ever, to be repair'd; so fatally to waste *those invaluable minutes of our most docile and retentive age*: wherein, if it were possible, nothing should be *seen, heard or done* by any Youth, neither at his studies, nor in his divertisements, nor in any part of his conversation by day or by night, which might make a disadvantageous impression upon his memory, and turn hereafter to the prejudice of *good manners, good sense, or a good life*. What things are meant by this general intimation, is left to that recollection, which any considerate person may easily make, if he pleases to reflect a little upon the *Accidents of his youth and childhood*; for these, when the acquisitions of his riper years are vanish'd, do meet him again in his *second infancy*, and in extreme old age, on the very confines of that land, where all things are forgotten, remain as the last yet *undefac'd impressions*; and instead of being a consolation to him, as they might have been, under his infirmities;



ties; they even then with sorrow revive upon him the *infelicity of his education, when a Boy.*

5. IT is therefore for the greatest reason in the whole World, that the *Art of making Boys Men and Christians too*, as being most eminently **A cure of Souls**, and at that time of their life also, when they are *most curable*; should be committed to the united aids of *so many able hands*, and to the care of persons of *such a character*; that the Public may hereafter with the greatest assurance, rely on the prudence and fidelity of their conduct, in the discharge of *so great a trust*; on the due performance whereof both *the temporal interest of the whole Nation, as well as the happiness of so many Souls in another World entirely depends.*

6. THE affair of Education being once settled throughout the Nation in the manner here propos'd, and in all *Collegiate Foundations*, that are, or may be made capable thereof; it is not to be question'd, but very great improvements will soon be made in the institution of young Nobles and Gentlemen; whereby not only with *more speed*, but with *greater facility* also to the learner, as well as instructor, such true principles of Generosity and Honour (now almost lost) may be replanted, and the foundation of virtuous habits so early laid; as may render our Nobility and Gentry in all qualifications becoming their Rank, the most accomplish'd of any Nation in the World.

7. IT will be no arrogance to affirm, but rather ingratitude not to acknowledge, that Heaven has been so largely bountifull to the Inhabitants of this Island; as to have given them a **genious** capable of excelling in all those Perfections together, which singly have been the boasted, and distinguishing characters of other Nations; but at the same  
time

time it must with the *greatest shame* be confess'd, that instead of cultivating those endowments of Nature for those noble Ends and Purposes, to which God had design'd them; the most ignominious debasements of Humanity, that were heretofore the peculiar reproaches of certain Countries, are by an unaccountable fatality center'd here (as it were) from all quarters of the Universe. Now, as it is observable, that whatever inequalities there may be found in several Regions of the Earth, as to the nature of the Soil and temper of the Climate; yet 'tis chiefly due to the various improvements Made by *Husbandry, Architecture and Mechanic Arts*, that Countries inhabited differ more or less from Desarts, as well as from one another: So are the natural constitutions and complexions of Souls no less alter'd and diversify'd by that adventitious temperature and configuration, which they receive from (what the *Lord Verulam* calls) the *Georgics of the mind*. *What any Nation shall be,* (says honest *Pic. Machiavel*.) *depends principally upon good or ill methods in the education of Children:* Nor is it possible without a Miracle, that any Man can be other then what he is; according as he hath been either *well, or ill-bred*.

8. To enumerate all those particulars, which in the Affair of Education may be justly censur'd either as *defects or errors*, some as *impertinent or absurd*, and others perhaps *pernicious* too, would be a very tedious, as well as invidious undertaking. To the generality of discreet and considerate persons, who are able to judge in a business of this nature, a bare recital of the principal points might perhaps afford a ready satisfaction; but there is in another sort of Men such a peculiar stubbornness in adhering to old *dirty ways* and *mouldy customs*, as is inflexible to all conviction; and the intent of this Paper being not to irritate peevish People to cavil and dispute, but to invite wise and ingenious Men upon a  
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great and weighty Subject calmly and seriously to deliberate; 'tis abundantly sufficient for that Design, if the methods hitherto commonly us'd shall (at least for the *exigencies of the present age*) appear utterly incompetent, since by sad and undeniable experience they are found to be so ineffectual in the event. If the remedy herein recommended, shall by Public Authority be approv'd; there will at this time be no need to enquire, what those defects or errors are; for since they have proceeded chiefly from hence, that an undertaking of so great difficulty both in respect to the skill and judgement, as well as the vigilance and assiduity requir'd to the due performance thereof, has been abandon'd to the arbitrary management of *so few hands*, and for the most part *unqualified heads*; tho' there is scarce any Office besides, wherein the honour, the prosperity and good government of the Nation is more nearly concern'd, nor more deserving a share in its public Counsels: It may justly be presum'd, that partly by friendly emulations, as well as correspondence of these learn'd Societies between themselves, and more especially by opportunities of mutual Consult during the *Sitting of the Convocation*; which were there no other, would ever be *a most necessary cause of its meeting*; all things any way relating to the institution of Youth will be so maturely consider'd, that after the many graduall re-formations and improvements, that from time to time shall be made, nothing at length may be wanting to advance it to its utmost perfection.

9. IN foreign Countries the institution of Youth is for the most part under the conduct of a *great and shrewd Society of Men*, concerning which the Lord Verulam long since said, *Add. Learn. p. 215. Consult the Schools of the Jesuits, for there is nothing for the use and practice better,*



**better, then their precepts** : but had that great and most important branch of Politics, the Education of Youth, been made, upon the first establishment of the Reformation here in England, a *Subject of Public Consultation*, and put under the direction of a *standing Society of Men* in perpetual succession, who might by *concerted Counsels* have labour'd in the *uniform improvements* thereof 'tis very probable, the Nation might not in times past have been by distractions *so dangerously convuls'd*; nor so over-run, as it is this day, with *immorality and profaneness*, much less have needed either then or since in this Affair to have consulted any foreign directions. But on the contrary, while we at home have been taken up in weighty debates, and enacted wise Laws about **breeding of Colts, rearing of Calves; preserving the spawn and fry of Fish, and securing the game from all disasters**; a matter of the greatest moment and *nicest management* in the World hath been for the most part left to *chance and hazard*, under the capricious and giddy conduct of a few scatter'd, obscure, and forlorn Men; who, for want either of just desert, and something else, which often serves instead on't, being excluded from the more *corpulent and drowsie preferments*, are by their own necessities condemn'd to the unhappy drudgery of spoiling a great part of the most hopeful Youth in the Nation.

10. **VERY** deplorable indeed is this misadventure, whereof some wary persons being, by some unfortunate experiment perhaps upon themselves, made the more sensible, and endeavouring to avoid in their own Children; have either fled to the assistance of a travelling Governour, who often wants another himself; with whom after a staring ramble of two or three years, to learn a little of the *out-landish mode and gibberish*; the amaz'd Youth, now season'd for English



glish Matrimony, returns home a *monstrous Mongrel*, with his brains as unsettled, as his heels: Or if this course does not please, the more cautious Parent betakes himself to that unlucky expedient of a *solitary education* under his own roof; where by the attendance of some *raw Tutor* from the University, or the sneaking complaisance of some *indigent Refugee*, but still under the directions of an *indulgent Mother* on the one side, and the malignant influence of *pimping servants*, and *flattering Tenants* on the other, the unhappy fondling grows up only into a confirm'd, habitual Child-hood; and after some Years training up with *plum-cake and candle*, is taught to know little more of the World, or of himself, than her Ladyships four-legged favourite, with whose extraordinary qualifications and her Son's together the formal Visitants are wont to be equally entertain'd.

II. BUT 'tis to be hop'd, there will in time to come be no need either of this *narrow way* of leading young Gentlemen into the World *blindfold*; much less of that precipitate hurrying them abroad to gaze upon the wide World, as it were in *leading strings*, before they can *well see*. A School rightly constituted, completely furnish'd, and prudently govern'd; is in it self a figure of the larger Kingdoms and Principalities of the World, contracted into a small, but very *instructive Model*; wherein the several Humours and Passions, the Duties and deviations of Mankind, together with all those necessary Observations and Instructions, that shall be hereafter necessary in the *conduct of human life*; are most advantageously represented in all the various Scenes, that appear (the Actors only being changed)

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upon

upon the *larger Theater of the World*. The scheme of the largest plant is first delineated in its seed, and whatever any Man shall here after be, is pre-existent in the form impress'd upon him, when he was a Boy; so that by how much the nearer the institution of young Nobles and Gentlemen, in this *Moral and Political Nursery* shall be adapted to the circumstances of their future Station in the *open field*; so much the better prepar'd will they be, to acquit themselves with decency, honour, and success, when *transplanted into the World*.

12. BUT neither is the right institution of the Nobility and Gentry the only public benefit design'd hereby; for, as Mr. Lock, well observes, **If those of that Rank are by their education once set right, they will quickly bring the rest into order:** and a due regulation once made therein by persons of that comprehensive view, as are intended to be engag'd in such an undertaking; will, in prosecution of the general end, extend to all *the inferiour nurseries of Youth*, and by degrees introduce a better Discipline and a more suitable Instruction, than will appear to have been hitherto observed in the *meaner sort*.

13. IT is certainly of no small importance to the peace and welfare of a Nation, that such as are design'd for *merchandize, mechanics, agriculture*, and even for *domestic services*, as well as any honest Employments whatsoever; should not only be carefully princip'd with an *early sense of piety and virtue*, but train'd up too in some way proportionate to their *capacities, condition and future course of life*. Were it always within the reach

reach of such, as could discern it; there would some times, as a *rough diamond* in rubbish, be found some *extraordinary Genius*, which Nature shap'd in a cottage for something great and excellent: No doubt many such have been lost in some mean imployment, which, by the advantage of being timely discover'd and polish'd, might in some faculty or other have been *the admiration of the Age*. Upon these considerations, it may perhaps hereafter be judg'd very expedient, that upon a survey taken of the *lesser Schools* dispers'd up and down the Nation, such particular directions for the management of them be prescrib'd, as may be more for the *public benefit*, as well as *private advantage* of those, that are to be instructed therein: And to provide also, as soon as may be, that no Children whatever be destitute of that necessary instruction, to which they have a right by *being born in a Christian Country*; wherein it must be a very great reproach, if any People should be found almost as *ignorant and unciviliz'd*, as if they had been bred in the most savage parts of *India*. By which inexcusable neglect, many of those unhappy Creatures being not inur'd to early industry and good discipline in their Youth; either thro downright villany and debauchery, or at least laziness and beggery, are utterly lost to themselves, as well as the Public; and never fail one way or other to be *reveng'd on the Government*, for the misery they endure.

14. BY trials in some places already made upon the Children of the poorer sort, it appears of what an *advantage*, as well as *honour* to the Nation it would be to pursue the same methods in all parts of



the Kingdom, by erecting such a number of *Working Schools*, at convenient distances, and in the most proper places, for each sort of Manufacture, as might entertain *at bed and board* in a regular way of living all the Issue of those *poor proletarian families*; who have been suffer'd hitherto to live more like *rats and weazels* and such like noxious vermine, than Creatures of humane race. Those that *bask and roll* in the fullness of earthly enjoyments may think themselves happy in being little concern'd at these matters; but while the *same humane nature* stands expos'd to Public view upon such *racks of misery*, 'tis not the largest and most beautiful Cities, nor the most magnificent Palaces, nor the richest Coaches with all the glaring train of attendants, can more boast the *wealth and splendour* of a Nation; then the ragged retinue of beggars round about 'em, and the dolefull cry of Cripples along the Streets, do proclaim the *reproach and dishonour* of its misgovernment. Add to this the loss which the Public sustains by so many *idle hands*, and compare it with the profit which might arise from their being *well employed*: and it will be found worth the charge of a general Tax, rather than any such thing as a Begger should be seen in the Nation. For let the wealth of any Country, whether it arises from the *cultivation of the Earth*, or the *variety of manufactures*, be search'd to the bottom of that Mine, from whence it springs: and it will appear to have its first *formation in the hands of the laborious poor*, who for all their pains are allow'd oftentimes no greater share out of it, than what will keep them from *present Starving*. 'Tis to the weariness and watchfulness of these *most useful and necessary limbs of humane Society*, the very hands and feet, and



a good part of the brains too of the political body ; that the **Drones** and **Epicures**, the meer **Guts** and **Garbidge** of Mankind owe all their ease and luxury : and upon a just ballance of the Account on both sides , the true **Political Arithmetic** will state it so ; that those , who possess the greatest share of the riches of the World ; are most indebted to those , that have nothing ; and that the faithful diligence of honest and ingenious Poverty is really the richest Treasure , and safest **Bank of Credit** in any Nation . So that Beggary is not so much the infelicity of those , that practice it ; as a *damage* and *disgrace* to the Government that permits it . The recovery of so many wretched people from such an accursed course of life , the very **Bondage of Hell**, and **Surfery of the Devil**, is worth any ransom , whatever it shall cost ; and a more noble and necessary charity , than the redemption of Captives out of the severest Turkish Slavery ; and which in other adventures of great hazard , is wont to be a great encouragement , will reimburse the expence of the Contributors with ample interest . Were this done , as it very easily may , and in mere Justice ought to be ; our most populous Parishes would not much longer complain of the poors Rates , nor our Politicians for want of People : The poorest Child thus bred up to civility and industry , would in a few Years *doubly contribute* to the Nation's Stock ; and as in the breed of Sheep , the public Treasure would still be multiply'd in proportion to the increase of their Numbers . In a word , That wretched crew of Vagrants , that have , like beasts of prey , been hunted from one covert to another , and having nothing else to do , made work only for the *Gallows* or the *Whipping-post* ; will in this orderly way of Life , be  
not

not only (considering their rank) the *best educated*, but become some of the most *profitable people* in the whole Nation; and which in a Christian Government ought to be above all considerations whatsoever, after a life spent here in honest industry and sobriety, make up perhaps the largest accession also to that number; which having had the least share of the good things of this life, shall enjoy a larger portion of the Blessedness hereafter.

15. THESE are the unvaluable Advantages that may be expected, at least heartily wish'd from committing the affair of Education in its whole latitude to *the Counsels of a standing Body of Learned Men*, who according to the Establishment here propos'd, may perpetually direct the conduct thereof; wherein as the *Collegiate Seminaries* have been consider'd as the Models of institution first to be regulated and improv'd, and then, as to the influence this regulation must necessarily derive upon all places of *inferiour education*; so by natural consequence it must extend also to those of *higher and more mature institutions*; which being in many respects, not now to be mention'd, capable of great commendation and advancements; 'tis not to be imagin'd, that Persons of that Authority and Interest, to whose oversight the first formations of Youth, and those of the better quality too shall be committed; will, to the utter frustration of all their early care, suffer to continue unimprov'd or unreform'd. For let the foundations by the *Master-builders* be never so well laid, that labour will in a manner all be lost; unless the *succeeding part* of the work bear some proportion thereunto both in the stability and beauty of the Superstructure.

16. THUS

16. **THUS** far of the happy advancements, that by the Blessing of Heaven upon the endeavours of good Men, may be hereafter made in the breeding of Youth ; and here should have been an end, had not a just commiseration toward the *other Sex*, made it necessary to add something also, in order to their more happy education. Let the Provisions for *masculine improvements* be order'd with the nicest consideration, yet if no greater regard be had to the *female counterpart*, a very considerable part of the work will be left undone : For tho' Women make but about one half of Mankind upon the *Poll* ; yet by their *Voice* and *Interest*, they will upon a right computation be found to carry before them at least *two parts in three* of the business of the World. Consider them only in the capacity of Wives or Mothers, and 'tis of great moment, how they are qualified for those offices ; and altho' a homely proverb in the Country says, **A good Jack makes a good Jill**, which may perhaps to an honest Man's comfort sometimes prove true : yet this is answer'd by another more generally so, as many find to their cost ; **That a man must ask his wife, whether he shall thrive or no**. Matrimony, like a bow of Spanish Yew, is compos'd of **heart and sap**, and the vigour of it's **elasticity** results from the well-proportion'd **temper of both together**. The frequency of *unhappy marriages*, together with the various mischiefs attending thereon, have been of late Years very remarkable ; which if imputable to any lewd exorbitance in the Female Sex, men ought in all justice to forbear their complaints, *they are good enough for 'em*, and 'tis but fit they should *meet with their match* ; since it has not been thought a matter worthy of  
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the public care, to endeavour to make 'em better. In all the numerous, and as to **Grammar Learning** (as it was thought so long ago, as the **Lord Ulerulam** liv'd,) superfluous erections of Schools all over the Nation; never yet, for what appears, hath there been since the *fatal dissolution of Monasteries*, any settled methods or fix'd endowments for the institution of the *female Sex*. Allowing the **Paradox** true, **That Women have no Souls**; yet they cannot be denied to have a *natural sagacity* capable of very *noble refinements*; and upon a just reflection, the neglect of such improvements must be censur'd as very ungentile, if not barbarous in a Country that gives them the honour of the superiour place in all civil conversation. Even the *exteriour beauty* of the Sex, here in **England** at least, where above all the regions of the Earth it is possessed of an *uncontested prerogative*, might plead for a more *ingenuous treatment*: since even the very **Dutchmen** deck and grave their thick-hull'd bottoms with all the dress, whereof the *weaker Vessel* is capable; and thereby find their account also in the *Voyage of life*. Beauty without discretion is, in **Solomon's** comparison, like a **Jewel in the nose of a Swine**; an allurements only to those brutal satisfactions, which would be the scorn and detestation of any Woman, that had been so wisely and ingenuously bred, as to know she hath a *masculine Soul* allied to the nature of Angels; that she is something else, than a *meer female*; and born for nobler purposes, than to be made a *loathsome sink of Bestiality*; or to be dress'd up, like some gawdy piece of work in a Toy-shop, as a ridiculous play-game for the divertisement of **Beaus and Fops**, the very Apes and Monkeys

keys of Mankind. Under such contemptuous abuses, and vile affronts put upon them; 'tis something strange, that no *wealthy Dowager* among the Ladies of Quality, or *Pious Virgin* of ample Fortune, and devoted to the sacred reservedness of a single life, have at no time been touch'd with such a *generous pity* for their own Sex; as to provide better accommodations for their *institution*, as well as for a safe and religious *retirement*: that they might be taught how to despise the *empty vanities*, and to loath the *smutty conversation* of the World; to set a juster value upon their time, and to take a more due estimate of themselves. There have been of late Years in the Diocess of **Winchester**, **Sarum** and **Rochester** Colleges decently built and comfortably endow'd for the reception of *Ministers Widows*, the example of which Charity deserves a zealous imitation in other places: But had there been Schools also annex'd to those Foundations, with convenient apartments for young Ladies, and such prudent Rules for Discipline and Instruction prescrib'd, as their good education requires and deserves; that liberality, which is now confin'd to the support of a few Women in an unactive and melancholly sort of Life, might have been improv'd to ample advantages by their being made both more easy in themselves, as well as exceedingly serviceable to the Public. For those Matrons, being generally Gentlewomen of the better sort of breeding, of mature experience in domestic Affairs and in the knowledge of the World; might with the assistance of proper Instructours in all those things, that concern the accomplishment of a good Woman, have by this time made those Colleges the most celebrated Academies for Female Education, as well as so many *Places of Refuge*

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for the secure and pious retreat of such serious unmarried Ladies; who being weary of mix'd conversation and the usual disorders incident to most private Families, might here find a more agreeable entertainment for a *pious and peacefull mind*. Nor were this in the least difficult to effect, if but a small proportion of those *immense Sums*, that are daily squander'd away in vice and vanity; or of the *extravagant fortunes* paid down to render Marriages oftentimes but the more *unfortunate*; were this way apply'd to purchase those more valuable endowments of Humility, Modesty, Prudence and Piety; by which alone it will be possible to make both Sexes in each other truly happy. Fancy, that all that Treasure which has been for so many Years, and so unhappily mispent at the *Playhouses* alone; and which, it seems, could be so easily spar'd for the occasions of Folly and Lewdness, had been amass'd into a *public stock* for the propagation of virtue and good manners: what abundance of mischief had been prevented, and of how great a number of Souls had the happiness been secured? Those, that have by this way perish'd, 'tis in vain now to lament: but 'tis left to the reflexion of the living, such as are capable of any, which way to redeem that expence; which they have so profusely, if not perniciously wasted. And as for the *Porters* and *Actors*, who have been the receivers of this *Devils-gelt*, they would do well freely to quit the Trade, which is grown so infamous, and in a Christian City utterly insufferable; and what hath not been yet no less wickedly spent of their ill-gotten gains, to refund by way of *Dowdand* into some Bank of Charity, for their being accessary to the ruin of so many Souls; who may be at this moment bitterly cursing



sing them in Hell, for what they are now doing upon earth. If hereupon they should be destitute of a livelihood, it would not be improper for the Poets, by way of voluntary penance to turn *Porters*; and the Players, *Scavengers*: That the former might in a more honest course of labour, expiate for their being so often sent on the *Devil's* errands; and the latter be oblig'd to gather again into heaps, to be carried out of the City, all that *nasty ribbaldry and noisome profaneness*, they have been for many Years scattering in all the Quarters thereof. If ever those People can come but to think, and be *serious*; they may perhaps take, what hath been said upon this occasion, to be no *jest*: However, if for the present it seems too severe, yet verily 'tis well-meant; and without being angry with an unknown friend, that heartily wishes well to them and every body else; they will do much more wisely to make the best on't for themselves.

But to return from that, which hath been the occasion of corrupting so many young Women, to what may be a means hereafter of their preservation; all that have either Daughters to breed up, or onely Sons to marry, have abundant cause to wish well to such a proposal; and that from a general commiseration to the Sex, as well as in respect to their own Families; for which purpose, if any shall contrive a nearer and better way, **GOD'S blessing be on his head**; but a *thousand blessings be everlastingly with the Soul of that Pious Person*, who shall be the finisher of so blessed a work, by means whereof numbers of Souls in the Age to come may have perpetual obligation to praise him on Earth; and in Heaven it self to laud God eternally for

that noblest of charities, which was the greatest of all humane aids in bringing them thither.

LASTLY, As the design now briefly propos'd and touch'd only in it's *out-lines*, may be sufficient to convince all *wise* and *intelligent* Persons, that shall be pleas'd to give themselves the trouble of looking into the *consequences* thereof; how exceedingly it would conduce to the reviving of a *truly great, generous* and *noble Spirit* in Persons of the higher Quality, and to the promoting of *Industry, Ingenuity* and *Piety*, in all ranks of People, and in all that variety of Conditions and Employments; wherein every individual Person, according to the capacity of his mind, abilities of his fortune, and the opportunities of his Life, is *by the law of his birth, and the establish'd Order of Divine Providence*, oblig'd to contribute his share to the Glory of his Maker, and the benefit of his Country: So may those Persons, that are intended to have the principal care in prosecution thereof, readily apprehend; that no manner of Public Service, within the Verge of their Function by them possible to be perform'd, can be more available either to the *benefit of Souls*, or to the *stability of the Church*; nor yet the *Sacred Order* more deservedly *venerable*, as well as *amiable* in the eyes of the whole Nation. There are indeed other atchievements of Ecclesiastical Prowess, which, from some novelty either in the Person of the performer, or in the manner of the Performance it self, may be apt now and then to amaze weaker Heads into fits of transient zeal and childish wonder: But by wiser People there is no employment generally esteem'd of *more solid and lasting benefit to the Public*, and consequently no obligation more *popular*; than to wisely to discharge this  
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at all times most *laborious*, but now especially most *difficult* task of the education of Youth. Wherefore, if any of that Faculty shall from a mistaken apprehension of the extraordinary usefulness of their own abilities, or the meanness and *undersbrievity* of this work, think it too low a condescension to be engag'd therein: the *Messieurs du Port Royal. Ess. de Morale Vol. 2. Part 1. Sec. 28.* may perhaps set 'em right; however, such as may be perswaded to make the experiment, will be more fully convinc'd; that 'tis not only a little *classical* Learning or *critical* erudition, but the most consummate skill in *philosophical speculation*, as well as *practical knowledge*, that is absolutely necessary to discharge it with the desired success. But if that also shall seem too mean a Quarry, to which Persons of great parts and high deserts should stoop their towring hight; let such consult *Constitut. Soc. Jes. part 5. cap. 3. Ed. Rom. 1583.* where besides the three Vows, they do promise *Peculiarem curam circa puerorum eruditionem*; and the reason is given in the declaration annex'd, *Quod autem de pueris docendis in voto sit mentio; ea de causa fit, ut sancta hæc exercitatio peculiari modo sit commendata & devotius curetur propter singulare obsequium, quod Deo per eam in animarum auxilio adhibetur.* This is the reason expressed; but by such, as can see *one inch beyond their nose-end*, another of great consequence may be as visibly read in the effect; and if that be not enough to reconcile Persons of fit abilities to the labour of undertaking it, its very possible, the Gentlemen of that active Society may, *in an hour little dream'd of*, come and do it for 'em. There is a sort of People so delicate, that in compliment to their own Pride, or partiality to their Laziness;



Laziness; can still so far presume upon Miracles of Providence, as upon the credit of a good Cause, to leave the drudgery of their own business intirely to the care of Heaven. How farr sitting still, and *drinking Claret*, may (as the Song says) contribute to the *support of the State*, so notorious and dangerous an Experiment hath within our Memory been made, as no wise Man would rely upon in *Affairs of the Church*; for as it was a Maxime of the late Famous Earl of **Shaftsbury**, **They, that will do the Business, shall have the Power**: So the voice and verdict of all Mankind will pronounce it most just; **That such, as will be at the pains to plow and sow, should reap the Fruits of the Harbest.**

May it please Almighty God, who, tho' **Faith** and **Truth** should utterly perish out of the Earth, for ever remains unchangeably Just and Holy; to excite the Hearts of all who have a true Christian Zeal for the honour of Religion, any generous concern for the prosperity of the Nation, and any Interest or Authority in the Government, to a serious and effectual Consideration of these things, before it be quite too late, and no place be left for any remedy.

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